



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HOLLYWOOD
MEAR CENTER
1760 N. GOWER ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90028

Monday, November 7, 2011

10:00 AM

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Curry, Vice Chair Berger, Vice Chair Kang, Vice Chair Friedman, Commissioner Biondi, Commissioner Kleinberg, Commissioner Rudnick, Commissioner Savelle, Commissioner Sorkin, Commissioner Trevino-Powell and Commissioner Williams

Excused: Commissioner Franzen, Commissioner McClaney, Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Olivas

1. Call to order. (11-4776)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:03 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

2. Introduction of November 7, 2011, meeting attendees. (11-4760)

Self-introductions were made.

Approval of the Agenda of November 7, 2011. (11-4761)

3. **On motion of Vice Chair Biondi, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, and Olivas being absent), this item was approved.**

4. Approval of the Minutes from the meetings of October 17, 2011. (11-4762)

On motion of Vice Chair Kang, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, and Olivas being absent), this item was continued to the next Commission meeting scheduled for November 21, 2011.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

5. Chair's Report by Patricia Curry, Chair, for November 7, 2011. (11-4763)

Chair Curry thanked Commissioners for attending the Annual Retreat and extended a special "thank you" to Vice Chair Friedman for organizing lunch, Vice Chair Berger for providing refreshments, and to Vice Chair Kang for securing the location.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, and Olivas being absent), this item was received and filed.

III. DISCUSSIONS

6. Discussion and approval of the Commission's 2012 meeting schedule. (11-4767)

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Rudnick, seconded by Vice Chair Kang, (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, and Olivas being absent), the Commission took the following actions:

- **Cancelled the Commission's regular meeting scheduled for December 19, 2011.**
- **Approved the Commission's 2012 meeting schedule as submitted.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

7. Discussion and approval of the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Transportation Service at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court. (11-4764)

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Savelle, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, and Olivas being absent), the Commission approved the letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Transportation Services at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

8. Discussion and approval of the Commission's Fiscal Year 2010/11 Annual Report. (11-4765)

After discussion, on motion of Vice Chair Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Savelle, (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, and Olivas being absent), the Commission's Fiscal Year 2010/11 Annual Report was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

9. Discussion of issues and topics for planning Commission activities and involvement for calendar year 2012. (11-4770)

Teleconferencing

In preparation for the August 15, 2011 Commission meeting, all Commissioners, except two indicated that they would be able to attend the meeting; however, due to the importance of the meeting they wanted to participate via teleconference. Chair Curry noted that she would like to explore developing a procedure or Commission policy to address teleconferencing at Commission meetings.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, Olivas, and Rudnick being absent), the Commission Chair requested Commissioner Kleinberg to take the lead on creating a Committee tasked to work with County Counsel to draft a Commission policy on teleconferencing and report back to the Commission.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:21 p.m. tabling this item for further discussion. The Commission reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with the following members Present/Excused:

Present: Commissioners Berger, Biondi, Curry, Friedman, Kang, Kleinberg, Savelle, Sorkin, Trevino-Powell and Williams.

Excused: Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, Olivas, and Rudnick.

**Commission Policies and Procedures-Bylaws and Operating Procedures
(Duties and Responsibilities of all Commission Members)**

Chair Curry distributed copies of the Commission bylaws and added that in addition to the work that Commissioners perform in their standing committees and workgroups, Commissioners also participate in a number of committees and workgroups of other County bodies that cover a wide range of important topics affecting children and families. As such, it is the responsibility of each Commissioner to report any findings or issues back to the full Commission.

Chair Curry referenced Page 8 of the Commission's Policies and Procedures (Bylaws and Operating Procedures), specifically the section titled "Duties and Responsibilities of all Commission Members," highlighting the following sections:

4. *State the Commission's policies, procedures, positions, etc., that have been voted and passed.*
5. *When stating personal positions that have not been considered by the Commission, state 'up front' that is one's own personal opinion, not that of the Commission. Fairly represent the Commission's views and positions on issues and not make personal statements, which reflect contrary individual positions.*
8. *When invited to participate in any forum, as a Commissioner, attempt to get prior approval to participate and direction from the Chair or Commission regarding the Commission position on anticipated issues. If time does not permit obtaining prior approval to participate and direction on anticipated issues then the Commissioner should decline the invitation to participate unless to do so would likely work to the detriment of children, families or the Commission. Under any circumstances where participation occurs, the participating Commissioner should to the extent feasible confine his or her remarks to known Commission positions. Any other remarks, the Commissioner feels he or she must make, are to be clearly distinguished as heretofore undetermined by the Commission and only a personal belief of the Commissioner would be. The participating Commissioner must provide a full report regarding the participation at the next Commission meeting he or she attends.*

Chair Curry noted that although the Commission may agree on the position taken by a Commission representative on a County body, it is critical that the full Commission be made aware of the position, and reiterated the importance of reporting back to the Commission. In addition, by reporting back to the Commission, Commissioners have an opportunity to openly discuss the issue before the Commission takes an official position.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, Olivas, and Rudnick being absent), the Commission agreed to report findings to the full Commission as follows:

- **Standing Commission Committees, Ad Hoc Committees and Workgroups to provide quarterly reports.**
- **Commissioners representing the Commission on County bodies to report monthly; and**
- **Instructed Commission staff to place all meetings for Standing/Ad Hoc Committees, and Workgroups on a calendar to be distributed to the Commissioners prior to each regular Commission meeting alerting Commissioners of such meetings.**

First 5 LA Audit

The Commission reported that First 5 LA was recently audited, and as a result of the audit, at the October 25, 2011 Board meeting, a motion by Supervisors Antonovich and Ridley-Thomas was approved (Item S-2 of 10/25/11), which included a recommendation instructing the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller, and with input from the Board Offices and the First 5 LA Commission, to report back in 30 days.

The Commission discussed the results of the First 5 LA audit and how changes, if any, would impact children and families within Los Angeles County.

Commissioner Williams suggested that the Commission should advocate keeping its existing ex-officio seat on First 5 LA and advocate for DCFS to have a voting seat.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, Olivas, and Rudnick being absent), the Commission agreed to advocate for the Commission to keep the existing ex-officio seat on First 5 LA.

Commission Priorities Calendar Year 2012:

The Commission discussed how many topics and issues the Commission should focus on. The Commission identified Assembly Bill 12, Title IV-E Waiver and DCFS reentry/re-abuse cases as priority topics. In addition, the Commission agreed that the topics should be addressed sequentially. However, the Commission also discussed the importance of continuing to work on the topics and issues present among the Commissions' Committees, Workgroups and County bodies.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, Olivas, Rudnick, Sorkin and Williams being absent), the Commission agreed to focus on the following topics for the 2012 Calendar Year:

- Assembly Bill 12, Title IV-E Waiver, and DCFS Reentry Rates to be the priority topics of focus to be addressed sequentially.
- Continue to work on the topics and issues within the Commission's Committees and Workgroups.

Review of DCFS Cases

The Commission referenced comments made by Dr. David Sanders, former DCFS Director and current Vice-President of Casey Family Programs at the Commission's October 3, 2011. Dr. Sanders commented that while he was the Director of DCFS, the Commission would review and analyze cases. Reviewing and analyzing cases is critical when determining where resources should be allocated, and that they be driven by what you're trying to accomplish and identifying the current situation.

The Commission also referenced a blanket order from Judge Nash which gave the Commission permission to review DCFS cases. However, the Commission will not seek the review of DCFS cases without first reaching a consensus from the Board Offices.

The Commission also discussed reviewing and analyzing monthly data from DCFS, and noted that in the past, the Commission received the "DCFS Executive Report," however this report is no longer provided to the Commission. DCFS will present an update on the Data Dashboard to the Commission in January 2012.

Chair Curry indicated that Casey Family Programs will conduct analysis for DCFS regarding why the number of youth who are between the ages of 0-4 and 16-18 have remained the same over the last ten years when the number of children under the care of DCFS has been reduced by more than half.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Franzen, McClaney, Murray, Olivas, Rudnick, Sorkin and Williams being absent), the Commission agreed to further explore the Commission's ability to review and analyze DCFS cases as well as other statistical reports.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-4771)

There were none.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-4773)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of November 7, 2011. (11-4774)

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 p.m.